

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus for automatically recording a plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive a plurality of images, which are automatically transmitted to the receiving unit from the a-plurality of digital cameras, users, wherein said receiving unit receives each of said plurality of images are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras a corresponding user automatically in accordance with an instructions which are is determined by each user-users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance;

an image keeping apparatus operable to keep said plurality of images received and recorded therein by said receiving unit; and

a delivery-medium recording unit operable to record said plurality of images onto recording media in such a manner that each of said recording media stores one or more images of said plurality of images that were received from one of said users only.

2. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

another receiving unit operable to receive a negative film; and

an image converting unit operable to read an image recorded onto said negative film and to convert said read image into a digital image,

wherein said digital image is kept by said image keeping apparatus and is recorded onto one of said recording media for a corresponding user.

3. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit records said one or more images onto one of said recording media for said one of said users at predetermined intervals.

4. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit records said one or more of said plurality of images when a recording instruction from said one of said users is received.

5. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a database operable to store information related to each of said plurality of images in such a manner that said information corresponds to said each of said plurality of images, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit records said plurality of images onto said recording media based on said information in said database.

6. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein said information includes at least a user ID of said each of said plurality of images that specifies a corresponding user.

7. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said information further includes at least one of a date and a place said each of said plurality of images was captured, and
said delivery-medium recording unit records said plurality of images after classification of said images based on said at least one of said data and said place.

8. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
an extra-printing-request receiving unit operable to receive an extra-printing request for an image of said plurality of images kept by said image keeping apparatus from a corresponding user; and
an extra-printing processing unit operable to print said image to be extra-printed onto paper in accordance with said extra-printing request.

9. (Previously Presented) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein said extra-printing request specifies said image to be extra-printed, and the quantity and size of the extra print.

10. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 8, further comprising

a database operable to store image IDs respectively assigned to said plurality of images, wherein
said extra-printing request specifies said image to be extra-printed by specifying one of
said image IDs that is assigned to said image to be extra-printed, and
said extra-printing processing unit specifies said image to be extra-printed by referring to
said database.

11. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said recording media stores said image IDs respectively assigned to said images together with said images, to help each of said users to select said image to be extra-printed.

12. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an extra-printing-request receiving unit operable to receive an extra-printing request for an image of said plurality of images kept by said image keeping apparatus from a corresponding user, wherein

said delivery-medium recording unit records said image to be extra-printed onto a new recording medium.

13. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a database operable to store image IDs respectively assigned to said images, wherein
said extra-printing request specifies said image to be extra-printed by specifying one of
said image IDs that is assigned to said image to be extra-printed,

said delivery-medium recording unit specifies said image to be extra-printed by referring to said database and records said image thus specified onto said new recording medium.

14. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said recording media stores said image IDs respectively assigned to said images together with said images, to help each of said users to select said image to be extra-printed.

15. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus for automatically recording a

plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive a plurality of images, which are automatically transmitted to the receiving unit from the a-plurality-of-users digital cameras, wherein said plurality of images are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras in accordance with instructions which are determined by users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance;

an image keeping apparatus operable to keep said plurality of images received and recorded therein by said receiving unit;

a delivery-medium recording unit operable to record said plurality of images onto recording media in such a manner that each of said recording media stores one or more images of said plurality of images that were received from one of said users only; and

a keeping-time monitoring unit operable to monitor a keeping time for each of said plurality of images to determine whether or not said keeping time reaches an end of a predetermined keeping term, said keeping time being a time that has passed after said each of said plurality of images was recorded in said image keeping apparatus; and

a keeping-time notifying unit operable to notify, when said keeping time is determined to reach said end of said predetermined keeping term, a corresponding user of said each of said plurality of images that said predetermined term expired.

16. (Original) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said image keeping apparatus deletes one of said plurality of images for which said predetermined keeping term expired, if no user's instruction is received from said corresponding user within a predetermined waiting time period after the notification.

17. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus for automatically recording a plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, comprising:

a receiving unit operable to receive a plurality of images, which are automatically transmitted from the a-plurality-of-users digital cameras, wherein said plurality of images are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras in accordance with instructions

which are determined by users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance;

an image keeping apparatus operable to keep said plurality of images received and recorded therein by said receiving unit;

a delivery-medium recording unit operable to record said plurality of images onto recording media in such a manner that each of said recording media stores one or more images of said plurality of images that were received from one of said users only;

a payment-mode receiving unit operable to receive an instruction specifying a payment mode from each of said users; and

a payment processing unit operable to indirectly charge said each of said users in accordance with said specified payment mode.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing thereon a program for use in a digital camera capable of being connected to a phone, comprising:

a connection-detecting module operable to detect connection between said digital camera and said phone;

a calling module operable to make said phone to-call a predetermined number; and

a transmitting module operable to make said digital camera transmit a plurality of images captured by said digital camera via said phone automatically to an external apparatus in accordance with an instruction determined by a user in advance,

wherein the external apparatus is adapted to automatically store images captured and transmitted by a plurality of digital cameras.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein said digital camera is connected to said phone by short-distance radio communication.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 18, further comprising a monitoring module operable to monitor the number of said one or more images captured by said digital camera to determine whether or not said number reaches a predetermined number, wherein

said transmitting module makes said digital camera transmit said one or more images when said monitored number of said one or more images reaches said predetermined number.

21. (Currently Amended) A capturing device, comprising:

a capturing unit operable to capture a plurality of images of an object; and

a controller operable to control said capturing device and to control a communication device capable of being connected to said capturing device to communicate with an external apparatus, wherein

each of said plurality of images are transmitted automatically to said external apparatus via said communicating device in accordance with an instruction determined by a user in advance,

wherein the external apparatus is adapted to automatically store images captured and transmitted by a plurality of capturing devices.

22. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said capturing device stores a program to be executed by said controller, and

said capturing unit transmits said image to said external apparatus in accordance with said program.

23. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said capturing device is operable to store said captured image,

said controller of said capturing unit determines whether or not the number of stored images reaches a predetermined number, and

said transmission is performed in accordance with said program when said number of said images reaches said predetermined number.

24. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 22, wherein said controller determines whether or not a predetermined time period has passed after said image was captured, and

said transmission is performed in accordance with said program when said predetermined

time period has passed after said image was captured.

25. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a unit operable to receive a user's instruction to allow said transmission to be performed manually, wherein said transmission is performed in response to said user's instruction in accordance with said program.

26. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a display operable to display said stored images to allow said user to select which image is to be transmitted to said external apparatus.

27. (Original) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said communicating device is formed integrally with said capturing device as a single device.

28. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method for automatically recording a plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, comprising:

receiving a plurality of images, which are automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras a capturing device by means of an image receiving unit, each of said plurality of images being images automatically transmitted from the plurality of digital cameras to the image receiving unit in accordance with an instructions determined by a users of the plurality of digital cameras in advance, the plurality of images being transmitted as digital data from said plurality of digital cameras capturing device or images brought into an image receiving place where said image receiving unit is placed while being recorded onto a negative film;

keeping said one or more images by recording said received one or more images in an image keeping apparatus;

recording said one or more images onto a recording medium; and
delivering said recording medium to a place specified by a user of said capturing device.

29. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 28, wherein

said plurality of one or more-images are transmitted via a phone capable of being connected to said capturing device via a wire or wirelessly.

30. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 28, further comprising, when said plurality of one or more-images are brought into said image receiving place while being recorded onto said negative film, converting said received one or more images into digital data after said one or more images are read from said negative film, wherein said one or more images converted are kept in said image keeping apparatus.

31. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method for automatically recording a plurality of images captured by a plurality of digital cameras, comprising:

receiving the plurality of one or more-images from the plurality of digital cameras a capturing device-by means of an image receiving unit, said plurality of one or more-images being automatically images-transmitted as digital data from said plurality of digital cameras capturing device or images brought into an image receiving place where said image receiving unit is placed while being recorded onto a negative film;

keeping said plurality of one or more-images by recording said received one or more images in an image keeping apparatus;

recording said plurality of one or more-images onto a-recording medium media;

delivering said recording media medium to a-places specified by a-users of said digital cameras; capturing device

receiving a-payment modes specified by said users; and

charging said users for a-required costs in accordance with said specified payment modes.

32. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said user is allowed to specify that said user pays said required cost in cash when said user receives said recording medium delivered to said user's specified place.

33. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein

~~said each user~~ is allowed to specify at least charging via a bank or via a credit service company as said payment mode.

34. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 33, wherein, ~~said plurality of one or more images~~ are images transmitted via a phone connected to ~~said digital cameras, and capturing device~~, said user is allowed to specify charging via a telephone company as said payment mode.

35 (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 35, wherein said receiving unit receives said plurality of images in accordance with at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

37. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein each of said plurality of images are captured and stored in the digital camera.

38. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein said transmitting module transmits said plurality of images in accordance with at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

39 (Previously Presented) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of images are captured and stored in a digital camera.

40. (Previously Presented) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said plurality of images are transmitted in accordance with at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

41 (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 28,41, wherein said receiving step receives said plurality of images in accordance with at least one of a shot date and a number of captured images.

43. (New) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

44. (New) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

45. (New) A delivery-medium producing apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said delivery-medium recording unit automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

46. (New) A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 18, wherein said external apparatus automatically records the transmitted images onto recording media in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

47. (New) A capturing device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said external apparatus automatically records the transmitted images onto recording media in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

48. (New) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 28, wherein said method automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

49. (New) A delivery-medium producing method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said method automatically records an image in accordance with at least one of: a time that has passed after each image was captured, the number of the images that have been captured, and predetermined intervals.

50. (New) The capture device of claim 21, wherein the capturing device deletes the plurality of images after the plurality of images are transmitted to the external apparatus.